

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A system ~~for ordering search results~~, comprising:
a country selector dynamically determining at least one preferred country applicable to search results generated responsive to a search query executed on ~~potentially retrievable~~ information in a data repository and provided ~~[[in]]~~ from a plurality of search result countries;
an interface characterizer determining the at least one preferred country using interface characteristics that comprise at least one country accepted by a user interface from which the search query was received; [[and]]
a search result orderer ~~ordering at least some of~~ determining an order for presenting the search results and adjusting the determined order for at least one of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country; and
a presenter presenting the search results in the adjusted order.
- 2-5. (canceled).
6. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
an indexer ranking the search results; and
the search result orderer ~~ordering at least some of the ranked search results relative to~~

adjusting the ranking of the at least one of the search results based on whether that at least one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country.

7. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 6, further comprising at least one of:

the search result orderer demoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country and promoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position; [[and]] or

the search result orderer promoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country and demoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position.

8. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 1, further comprising:
a scorer assigning a numerical score to the search results; and
the search result orderer adjusting the numerical score of the at least ~~some~~ one of the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country.

9. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 8, further comprising at least one of:

the search result orderer increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country; [[and]] or

the search result orderer decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

10. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 8, further comprising:

~~[[a]] the country selector including selecting at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries in the at least one preferred country; and~~

the search result orderer adjusting the numerical score, comprising at least one of increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country, ~~[[and]] or~~ decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

11. (currently amended) A system according to Claim ~~[[1]]~~ 8, further comprising:

the search result orderer sorting at least some of the search results with the adjusted numerical scores.

12. (currently amended) A method ~~for ordering search results~~, comprising:

receiving a search query;

performing a search based on the search query to identify search results from a plurality of search result countries;

dynamically determining at least one preferred country applicable to the search results using interface characteristics that comprise at least one country accepted by a user interface from which the search query is received ~~generated responsive to a search query executed on~~ potentially retrievable information and provided in a plurality of search result countries; and

ordering ~~at least some of~~ the search results;

adjusting the order of at least one of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country; and

presenting the search results in the adjusted order.

13-16. (canceled).

17. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:
ranking the search results; and
ordering at least some of the ranked search results relative to the at least one preferred country.

18. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 17, further comprising at least one of:

demoting each search result ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred

country and promoting each search result ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country by at least one position; ~~[[and]]~~ or

promoting each search result ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country and demoting each search result ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country by at least one position.

19. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 12, further comprising:
assigning a numerical score to the search results; and
adjusting the numerical score of at least some of the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country.

20. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 19, further comprising at least one of:

increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country; ~~[[and]]~~ or

decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

21. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 19, further comprising:
~~including determining at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries~~

country in the at least one preferred country; and

adjusting the numerical score, comprising at least one of:

increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country; ~~[[and]]~~ or

decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

22. (currently amended) A method according to Claim ~~[[12]]~~ 19, further comprising: sorting at least some of the search results with adjusted numerical scores.

23. (canceled).

24. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~for ordering search results~~, comprising:
means for dynamically determining at least one preferred country applicable to search results generated responsive to a search query executed on ~~potentially retrievable information in~~ a data repository and provided ~~[[in]]~~ from a plurality of search result countries;
means for determining the at least one preferred country using interface characteristics that comprise at least one country accepted by a user interface from which the search query was

received; [[and]]

means for ~~ordering at least some of~~ determining an order for presenting the search results;

means for adjusting the determined order for at least one of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country; and

means for presenting the search results in the adjusted order.

25. (currently amended) A system ~~for providing preferred country ordering of search results~~, comprising:

a parser receiving a search query ~~describing potentially retrievable information provided in a plurality of search result countries;~~

an indexer executing a search by evaluating the search query against information from a plurality of countries that is ~~characteristics~~ maintained in a searchable data repository, and identifying search results based on the search; [[and]]

a country promoter dynamically determining at least one preferred country applicable to the search results, generated responsive to the executed search, and ordering at least some of the search results, and adjusting the ordering of at least one of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the at least one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country;

a user interface characterizer determining a country accepted by a user interface; and
a country selector selecting the country as the at least one preferred country.

26-28. (canceled).

29. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:
a search result orderer ordering the search results ~~by degree of~~ based on a match of a country of the search results to the at least one preferred country.

30. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 29, further comprising:
the search result orderer demoting the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country by a predefined shifting factor.

31. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 30, wherein the predefined shifting factor substantially equals two (2.0).

32. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 29, further comprising:
the search result orderer promoting the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country by a predefined shifting factor.

33. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:
a scorer ordering each of the search results by a degree of match to the information ~~characteristics in the searchable data repository~~.

34. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:

a country detector detecting a country associated with at least one of the search result results.

35. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 34, further comprising at least one of:

Uniform Resource Locator (URL) analyzer determining a URL extension for the at least one of the search result results;

a domain registrar examiner examining a domain registrar address for the at least one of the search result results and inferring the country from a business associated therewith;

a country inferrer inferring the country from at least one of the IP an Internet Protocol (IP) address of a Web server from which the at least one of the search result results was obtained, a search result document for the at least one of the search result results, or other Web pages on a same Web site as the at least one of the search result results; and

a hyperlink analyzer examining anchor text of hyperlinks to the search result document, text near the hyperlinks, or countries of the Web pages with hyperlinks to the search result document.

36. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, wherein the search results are assigned a numerical score, the system further comprising:

a search result orderer increasing the numerical score assigned to at least some of the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country.

37. (previously presented) A system according to Claim 36, wherein the numerical score is adjusted in accordance with the formula:

$$s_i = \frac{s_i + 1}{2}$$

where s_i comprises the numerical score for each search result i .

38. (currently amended) A system according to Claim [[36]] 25, wherein the search results are assigned a numerical score, the system further comprising:

a search result orderer decreasing the numerical score assigned to at least some of the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country.

39. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 25, further comprising:
a presenter presenting the search results in the adjusted order.

40. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 39, further comprising:
the presenter performing at least one of controlling enablement of presentation of at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country, grouping together at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country, or [[and]] arranging at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country next to at least some of the search results for at least one country other than the at least one preferred ~~countries~~ country prior to presentation to the user.

41. (canceled).

42. (currently amended) A method ~~for providing preferred country ordering of search results~~, comprising:

receiving a search query ~~describing potentially retrievable information provided in a plurality of search result countries~~;

executing a search by evaluating the search query against information ~~characteristics from a plurality of search result countries that is~~ maintained in a searchable data repository;

~~dynamically~~ determining at least one preferred country applicable to search results generated responsive to the executed search;

determining a country accepted by a user interface;

selecting the country as the at least one preferred country; and

ordering at least some of the search results based on the at least one preferred country, where the order of one of the search results among other ones of the search results is based on whether the one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country.

43. (canceled).

44. (canceled).

45. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
ordering the search results based on a match of a country of the search results to the at

least one preferred country.

46. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
ordering the search results by degree of match of a country of the search results to the at
least one preferred country.

47. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 46, further comprising:
demoting the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred
country by a predefined shifting factor.

48. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 47, wherein the predefined
shifting factor substantially equals two (2.0).

49. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 46, further comprising:
promoting the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred
country by a predefined shifting factor.

50. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
ordering each of the search results by a degree of match to the information characteristics
in the searchable data repository.

51. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:

detecting a country associated with at least one of the search result results.

52. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 51, further comprising at least one of:

determining a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) extension for the at least one of the search result results;

examining a domain registrar address for the at least one of the search result results and inferring the country from a business associated therewith;

inferring the country from at least one of ~~the IP~~ an Internet Protocol (IP) address of a Web server from which the at least one of the search result results was obtained, a search result document for the at least one search result, or other Web pages on a same Web site as the at least one of the search result results; and

examining anchor text of hyperlinks to the search result document, text near the hyperlinks, or countries of the Web pages with hyperlinks to the search result document.

53. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 42, wherein the search results are assigned a numerical score, the method further comprising:

increasing the numerical score assigned to at least some of the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country.

54. (previously presented) A method according to Claim 53, wherein the numerical score is adjusted in accordance with the formula:

$$s_i = \frac{s_i + 1}{2}$$

where s_i comprises the numerical score for each search result i .

55. (currently amended) A method according to Claim [[53]] 42, wherein the search results are assigned a numerical score, the method further comprising:

decreasing the numerical score assigned to at least some of the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country.

56. (original) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
presenting the search results.

57. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 56, further comprising:
performing at least one of controlling enablement of presentation of at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country, grouping together at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country, or [[and]] arranging at least some of the search results for each of the at least one preferred country next to at least some of the search results for at least one country other than the at least one preferred ~~countries~~ country prior to presentation to the user.

58. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 42, further comprising:
~~including selecting at least one or more related, alternate and less preferred countries~~
country in the at least one preferred country.

59. (canceled).

60. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~for providing preferred country ordering of search results~~, comprising:

means for receiving a search query ~~describing potentially retrievable information provided in a plurality of search result countries~~;

means for executing a search by evaluating the search query against information ~~characteristics~~ from a plurality of search result countries that is maintained in a searchable data repository;

~~means for dynamically determining at least one preferred country applicable to search results generated responsive to the executed search;~~

means for determining a country accepted by a user interface;

means for selecting the country as at least one preferred country applicable to search results generated responsive to the executed search; and

means for ordering at least some of the search results based on the at least one preferred country, where the order of one of the search results among other ones of the search results is based on whether the one of the search results is from the at least one preferred country.

61. (currently amended) A system ~~for dynamically determining country preferences and ordering of search results~~, comprising:

a parser receiving a search query request message and parsing at least one of terms

[[and]] or attributes from the search query request message to identify ~~potentially retrievable~~

Web content provided [[in]] from a plurality of search result countries;

an indexer executing a search by evaluating the at least one of terms [[and]] or attributes against information ~~characteristics~~ maintained in a searchable data repository and generating search results responsive to the executed search;

a country promoter determining at least one preferred country, comprising:

a country determiner evaluating characteristics of ~~at least one of the~~ a user interface ~~and the Internet Protocol (IP)~~, and selecting the at least one preferred country based on the evaluated characteristics; and

a country orderer ~~ordering~~ determining an order for at least some of the search results ~~among other ones of the search results~~ based on whether the at least some of the search results are from the at least one preferred country; and

a presenter presenting the search results in the determined order ~~as search result response messages~~.

62-63. (canceled).

64. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61, wherein the search results are generated in a ranked order, the system further comprising:

a search result orderer ordering at least some of the search results relative to the at least one preferred country by a predefined shifting factor, comprising at least one of demoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country by the predefined

shifting factor and promoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position, [[and]] or promoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country by the predefined shifting factor and demoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position.

65. (original) A system according to Claim 64, further comprising:
the search result orderer adjusting the predefined shifting factor based on available context in the search query request message and the search results.

66. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61, wherein the search results are generated in a ranked order by numerical score, the system further comprising:
the search result orderer adjusting the numerical score of at least some of the search results by a predetermined weighting factor, comprising at least one of increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country, [[and]] or decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

67. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 66, further comprising:
the search result orderer adjusting the ~~predefined~~ predetermined weighting factor based on available context in the search query request message and the search results.

68. (currently amended) A system according to Claim 61, wherein the search query request message ~~and each search result response message~~ is HTTP-compliant.

69. (currently amended) A method ~~for dynamically determining country preferences and ordering of search results~~, comprising:

receiving a search query request message and parsing at least one of terms ~~[[and]]~~ or attributes from the search query request message to identify ~~potentially retrievable~~ Web content provided ~~[[in]]~~ from a plurality of search result countries;

executing a search by evaluating the at least one of terms ~~[[and]]~~ or attributes against information ~~characteristics~~ maintained in a searchable data repository and generating search results responsive to the executed search;

determining at least one preferred country, comprising:

evaluating characteristics of ~~at least one of the~~ a user interface ~~and the Internet Protocol (IP)~~; and

selecting the at least one preferred country based on the evaluated characteristics;
~~ordering~~ determining an order for at least some of the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the search results are from the at least one preferred country;
and

presenting the search results in the determined order ~~as search result response messages~~.

70-71. (canceled).

72. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 69, wherein the search results are generated in a ranked order, the method further comprising:

ordering at least some of the search results relative to the at least one preferred country by a predefined shifting factor, comprising at least one of:

demoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country by the predefined shifting factor and promoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position; [[and]] or
promoting each search result [[in]] from a country other than the at least one preferred country by the predefined shifting factor and demoting each search result [[in]] from the at least one preferred country by at least one position.

73. (original) A method according to Claim 72, further comprising:
adjusting the predefined shifting factor based on available context in the search query request message and the search results.

74. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 69, wherein the search results are generated in a ranked order by numerical score, the method further comprising:

adjusting the numerical score of at least some of the search results by a predetermined weighting factor comprising at least one of:

increasing the numerical score assigned to the search results [[in]] from the at least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search

results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country; ~~[[and]]~~ or
decreasing the numerical score assigned to the search results ~~[[in]]~~ from the at
least one preferred country and maintaining the numerical score assigned to the search
results ~~[[in]]~~ from a country other than the at least one preferred country.

75. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 74, further comprising:
adjusting the ~~predefined~~ predetermined weighting factor based on available context in the
search query request message and the search results.

76. (currently amended) A method according to Claim 69, wherein the search query
request message ~~and each search result response message~~ is HTTP-compliant.

77. (canceled).

78. (currently amended) An apparatus ~~for dynamically determining country
preferences and ordering of search results~~, comprising:
~~means for dynamically determining country preferences and ordering of search results;~~
means for receiving a search query request message and parsing at least one of terms
~~[[and]]~~ or attributes from the search query request message to identify ~~potentially retrievable~~
Web content provided ~~[[in]]~~ from a plurality of search result countries;
means for executing a search by evaluating the at least one of terms ~~[[and]]~~ or attributes
against information ~~characteristics~~ maintained in a searchable data repository and generating

search results responsive to the executed search;

means for determining at least one preferred country, comprising:

means for evaluating characteristics of ~~at least one of the~~ a user interface and the Internet Protocol (IP); and

means for selecting the at least one preferred country based on the evaluated characteristics;

means for ~~ordering at least some of~~ determining an order for the search results among other ones of the search results based on whether the search results are from the at least one preferred country; and

means for presenting the search results in the determined order ~~as search result response messages.~~

79. (currently amended) A method comprising:

executing a search in response to a search query to generate search results;

ordering the search results based on a degree of match with the search query;

dynamically determining a preferred country, wherein the preferred country is determined based on an interface characteristic comprising a country accepted by a user interface; and

reordering at least some of the search results based on the preferred country.

80-82. (canceled).

83. (previously presented) The method of claim 79, further comprising:

determining a country associated with each search result based on at least one of a Uniform Resource Locator (URL) associated with each search result, a domain register address associated with each search result, or an anchor text of a hyperlink associated with each search result.

84. (previously presented) The method of claim 83, wherein the at least some search results are reordered based on a degree of match between the countries associated with the search results and the preferred country.

85. (currently amended) The method of claim 84, further comprising at least one of:
demoting each search result associated with a country other than the preferred country
and promoting each search result associated with the preferred country; [[and]] or
promoting each search result associated with a country other than the preferred country
and demoting each search result associated with the preferred country.

86. (currently amended) The method of claim 79, further comprising:
dynamically determining an alternate preferred country based on ~~at least one of~~ interface characteristics, Internet Protocol (IP) characteristics, or user preferences; and
reordering at least some of the search results based on the alternate preferred country.

87. (currently amended) The method of claim 86, wherein the search results

associated with the preferred country are ~~provide~~ provided before the search results associated with the alternate preferred country.

88. (currently amended) A device comprising:

a memory to store a plurality of instructions; and

a processor to execute instructions in the memory to:

order search results based on a degree of match with a search query,

~~dynamically~~ determine a preferred country based on ~~at least one of~~ an interface characteristic comprising a country accepted by a user interface, an Internet Protocol (IP) ~~characteristic, or a user preference~~, and

reorder at least some of the search results based on the preferred country.

89. (currently amended) A computer-readable medium that stores computer-executable code comprising:

instructions for executing a search in response to a search query to generate a ranked set of search results;

instructions for ~~dynamically~~ determining a preferred country based on ~~at least one of~~ an interface characteristic comprising a country accepted by a user interface, an Internet Protocol (IP) ~~characteristic, or a user preference~~; and

instructions for reordering at least one search result of the ranked set of search results based on the preferred country.